

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 3, 2005. Claims 19 to 24 are pending in the application, of which Claims 19, 20 and 21 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 19 and 20 are allowed.

Claims 1 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,665,081 (Suzuki) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,471,564 (Dennis), and Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 for allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 18 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 1 to 18 is now moot.

Claim 21 has been rewritten to positively recite that Claim 21 is directed to a computer-readable memory medium. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 21 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, without conceding the correctness of the rejections, and merely to obtain an earlier allowance.

With reference to the remarks made above, Applicant submits that all the independent claims presented in the application are in condition for allowance. The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each

dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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